

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
COURT OF APPEALS

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In the Matter of TYRESE COOK, TAMERA  
COMBS, and LATIA CAMICA NELOLA ANN  
COMBS, Minors.

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES,

Petitioner-Appellee,

v

TAMEKA COMBS,

Respondent-Appellant.

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UNPUBLISHED  
September 28, 2006

No. 268310  
Ingham Circuit Court  
Family Division  
LC No. 00-061345-NA

Before: Borrello, P.J., and Jansen and Cooper, JJ.

MEMORANDUM.

Respondent appeals as of right the trial court order terminating her parental rights to her minor children under MCL 712A.19b(3)(c)(i), (c)(ii), (g), and (j). We affirm. This appeal is being decided without oral argument pursuant to MCR 7.214(E).

The trial court did not clearly err in finding that statutory grounds for termination were established by clear and convincing evidence. MCR 3.977(J); *In re Miller*, 433 Mich 331, 337; 445 NW2d 161 (1989). We further find that the evidence failed to support respondent's claim that termination of her parental rights was clearly not in the child's best interests. MCL 712A.19b(5); *In re Trejo Minors*, 462 Mich 341, 356-357; 612 NW2d 407 (2000).

On June 14, 2004, respondent's two older children, Tyrese and Tamera, then two years old and four months old respectively, were found alone in respondent's apartment in dirty clothing and urine soaked diapers. The children were taken from the apartment by the police. At that time, respondent was in the process of being evicted from her apartment, and the children were taken into foster care and not returned to respondent because she was homeless. In October of 2005, respondent gave birth to a third child, Latia. Petitioner filed a petition for permanent custody of Latia because respondent was still unable to provide suitable housing for any of her

three children and because respondent was still involved<sup>1</sup> with her husband Marvin Combs, Tamera and Latia's father, with whom she had a history of domestic violence.<sup>2</sup>

At the January 9, 2006 termination hearing for the three children, respondent still did not have a home for the children and failed to verify any income<sup>3</sup> with which she would obtain and maintain housing. Although respondent consistently attended counseling and was always early and present for visitation with the children, she was unable to appropriately or effectively parent her children for even these sessions of one hour a week.<sup>4</sup> By the end of the hour, respondent was anxious to leave the visit and failed to take advantage of the foster care worker's offer to extend the visitation time.<sup>5</sup> In addition, respondent continued her relationship with her alcoholic and abusive husband despite her repeated denials of an ongoing relationship. Finally, respondent failed to accept any responsibility for her children being in foster care, and instead blamed the foster care worker, her family and the foster care system.

On this record, we can find no error in the trial court's decision to terminate parental rights.

Affirmed.

/s/ Stephen L. Borrello  
/s/ Kathleen Jansen  
/s/ Jessica R. Cooper

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<sup>1</sup> Respondent claimed she was not involved with Combs, but various foster care workers asserted they had seen the two together frequently.

<sup>2</sup> Respondent admitted Combs was an alcoholic and had assaulted her in front of Tyrese. Hospital workers supported petitioner's assertion that when respondent was in the hospital in labor for Latia's birth, respondent and Combs locked themselves in a bathroom arguing and would not come out until hospital security responded to the situation.

<sup>3</sup> Respondent claimed she worked steadily at McDonald's, but failed repeatedly to complete the verification paperwork provided and required by Protective Services.

<sup>4</sup> A foster care worker testified that respondent paid most of her attention to Latia during these sessions, despite the fact that Latia was asleep throughout most of the session time, and respondent's two older children, then aged three and two, were running around, screaming, hitting each other, and throwing books and chairs. Respondent testified that Latia needed more of her attention because she was an infant and the other children were older.

<sup>5</sup> Respondent did accept the offer to extend parenting time on one occasion, the week before the termination hearing.